

SAUGUS CHARTER COMMISSION
- JULY 24, 2008 -
Step 3 – Develop Possible Solutions

Government Model: Town Manager form of government

	Your Description (brief narrative so that others will be able to understand what you have in mind)
Executive	<p>Town Manager elected by 7 Selectman. Various decision making capabilities would move from the Town Manager to the Selectman, like setting policy and deciding on legal counsel. The Selectman would also be involved in contract negotiations with the town manager. The Chairman of the board would also serve as the 7th member of the School Committee. Selectmen cannot be town employees. The town manager can be hired and/or fired by a simple majority.</p> <p>The charter should include a provision where temporary (or interim) town managers cannot serve in this position for more than 10 months.</p> <p>The Town Manager (as well as town employees) would have established goals each year, and a yearly performance appraisal.</p> <p>A Chief Financial Officer (CFO) would be hired to oversee all of the town's finances (including the school budget). This person would have internal audit expertise to ensure accurate accounting procedures.</p> <p>Even though I would like to see the Town Manager live in town, I would not want to limit Saugus' pool of applicants since it is important to hire the most qualified person to run the town. So if there are two equally qualified candidates, I'd like to give preferential treatment to the Saugus resident, but I don't feel that we should only consider Saugus residents for this very important position.</p>
Legislative	<p>Town Meeting would consist of 50 members, 5 from each of the 10 precincts. Town employees could run for Town Meeting, but cannot vote on the budget. To help facilitate acting on urgent matters regarding the budget (emergencies), a separate body within Town Meeting (one member from each precinct) will be formed, and could be called into session at any time. This member would be voted on each year by the town meeting members within each precinct, and cannot be a town employee.</p>
School Committee	<p>The School Committee would include 7 members, where 6 are elected at large. The 7th member would be the Chairperson of the Selectman. The School Committee would be involved with the budget process from the</p>

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Elections	<p>For Selectman: there would be staggered 3 year terms. The top 3 vote-getters will serve three years, and take turns being Chairperson over the first 3-year period. The person with the highest votes will be Chairperson first. The fourth and fifth highest vote-getters will serve for two years, and the sixth and seventh members will serve for one year.</p> <p>For School Committee: the process would be similar to the Selectman, except the seventh member would change each year when the Chairperson of the Selectman changes. There would be 3-year staggered terms.</p> <p>For Town Meeting: There would also be 3-year staggered terms, where the top 2 vote getters serve 3 years, the third and fourth member serve 2 years, and the fifth member serves one year.</p> <p>The recall provision should also be revamped if a person is not representing the town appropriately. A recall provision is also needed for Town Meeting members.</p> <p>I would add a recall provision for Town Meeting members, not just Selectmen and School Committee members. I suggest obtaining 15-20% of the registered voter signatures within 30-40 days from the formal notification of recall.</p>
Finance	<p>The Finance Committee would consist of 9 members, 3 appointed by the town moderator, 3 appointed by the Selectman, and 3 appointed by the School Committee for three year staggered terms. Initially, each of the three bodies will decide which of their three appointments will serve one, two, and three year terms.</p>
Budget	<p>The budget must be submitted by the department heads no later than March 15th to the Town Manager, the Selectmen, and the Finance Committee. If March 15th is a Saturday or Sunday, the budget can be submitted by the following Monday.</p> <p>There would be a follow-up open session where the department heads would present their budgets to the Selectmen, Town Manager, and the Finance Committee to be scheduled two weeks after receiving the original submission. At this time, the Selectmen, Town Manager, and the Finance Committee could ask questions regarding each budget. This would be an open session, where the School Committee, Town Meeting members, the Finance Committee, and town residents could attend. The School Committee would be expected to participate in the School Department's budgets.</p> <p>Town Meeting will receive their budget materials (books) no later than May 15th. The budget must be adopted no later than June 30th each year.</p>
Other Committees	<p>A Capital Budget Committee, Traffic Commission, Interview Committee, Human Services Advisory Committee, Bylaw Review, Land Use, and a Beautification Committee are some of the committees that would be established by the Selectmen, and each Committee will try to appoint at least one resident to each committee</p>

